

They Purely Appreciated The Bad News

By Robert C. Albright

Staff Reporter

SEN. GALE W. McGEE (D-Wyo.) is back from a speaking tour of more than a dozen states where he tried out a unique experiment in "bad news" oratory.

Time after time he laced into his audiences, held them at least partially responsible for the complacency that grips the land, called them "hypocrites" for not demanding that their leaders do something about it.



To McGee's great surprise, most of them came up cheering. It demonstrated to the Senator's satisfaction, at least, that the American people can take bad news and tough talk and like it. He believes that this is a basic requirement if the country is to overtake Russia in the space and time race and support the action needed to expand our economy.

McGee recalled the seemingly unattainable 50,000-plane goal set by Franklin Roosevelt in a fireside chat on May 26, 1940, and the equally improbable objective of 60 million postwar jobs Henry Wallace set as Secretary of Commerce in 1945. Both goals were quickly reached and shattered.

The freshman Senator told his audiences that that same sort of imaginative planning is now needed lest America lapse forever into a "second-class" role.

More Tough Talk

McGEE, OF COURSE, isn't the only one doing a lot of hard thinking along this line.

On Nov. 13 a subcommittee of the congressional Joint Economic Committee, headed by Rep. Richard Bolling (D-Mo.), will open hearings on comparisons between the Soviet and American economies. The first witness will be Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

"I hope," said Bolling, "that this will contribute to an increased awareness by the American people of the very real threat Soviet economic competition can be to our way of life."

Some of Bolling's other thoughts on that critical theme:

"It is a fact that in recent years the Soviet economy has been growing more rapidly than has ours and that while we still have an economic advantage, as large as theirs, they have been



REP. SAMUEL S. STRATTON
... gummed up



SEN. GALE W. MCGEE
... laid it on the line

closing the gap at a rather startling pace.

"This, of course, has many significances, the most obvious of which is that should the Soviets succeed in developing a larger and more powerful economy than ours, they would be in an even better position to defeat us in the world-wide struggle between our different ways of life.

"For example, it is possible that the countries which are now moving from poverty-stricken agricultural societies to industrialized economies would choose the Communist way if it proved faster and more effective than the democratic way in achieving the economic results they want..."

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